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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 24, 1905.

JUST THINK OF IT!

The most strenuous endeavors are still made to deceive the public as to the franchise contemplated to be extended to the Utah Light and Railway Company. The City Council is urged not to make any change in the present franchises owned by that company; it is repeated that the company is seeking to obtain something for nothing; and further, that the grants proposed would be worth many millions of dollars. Let us see how much sense and truth there are in these charges.

As we have shown repeatedly, the company already has franchises covering the streets and thoroughfares of the city where its lines and wires and poles extend. It also has the right under its franchises to charge a much higher rate for lighting than is proposed under the new franchise. So that if the present proposition is defeated, there will be no regulation to prevent the exaction of the maximum rates the company is allowed to charge, and the public will not receive the benefits which would accrue under a new franchise.

In addition to the properties which the city wants and that belong to the company, the minimum value of which is placed at \$100,000 and which the company will deed to the city, it is to furnish to the city light and power valued at \$40,000 a year. Anybody can count up what that would amount to in the fifty years of the franchise. The total would be \$2,000,000 that the city would receive from the company.

Then the company is to pay \$25 a year on each street-car operated under its franchise. There are at present sixty cars operating, that tax and ten cars have been ordered, which will make seventy cars, and these at \$25 each for fifty years will make \$37,500, without counting the increased number of cars that will certainly be needed and operated as the population increases and extra facilities are required. So that at least \$100,000 may be put down as the figure of the cost to the company and the receipts of the city from this item alone.

So much for the alleged "nothing" that the company will give for something. Two million two hundred thousand dollars, totals a very pretty little "nothing" which the company is to give to the city for a consolidation of its franchises and an extension for a period of eight years beyond its present longest limit.

The plotters against the welfare of the city as well as against fair treatment of the company, clamor for the passage of an opposition franchise for a term of fifty years, without the payment to the city of a solitary cent!!!

It proposes a slight reduction in the charges for electric lighting from the rates now charged by the Utah Light and Railway Company, and it will be found, on close comparison, that this will be no reduction at all from the rates that will prevail if the terms proposed in the new franchise to the company are adopted.

There is nothing proposed in regard to the operation of a street-car system in the pretended application which the plotters are urging the city to grant.

As it is presented, it makes no offer to light any outlying districts which are now supplied by the Utah Light and Power Company, but is in the nature of a little, local, narrow, central scheme evidently designed merely as a block in the way of the existing company, without any guaranty for its extension to distant points, or the offer of the least equivalent for the franchise which it pretends to want.

Think of the impudence of the papers that plead for the granting of such a franchise for fifty years, without a solitary cent of compensation to the city, while they demand the turning down of the extension of the existing company's franchise for eight years, which will insure to the city returns to the amount of more than two million dollars!

Think also of their assumption and indecency in calling upon the populace to gather in a crowd around the building where the council sits, to overawe and intimidate the members into taking such a mad, unjust and ridiculous step as that urged, by the opponents of a substantial and bona-fide company and advocates of a hot-air proposition like that which we have briefly touched upon!

The city authorities who support the franchise which has been arranged with due regard to the needs of the municipality and the rights of the company with which it is dealing, will be the real friends and supporters of the city, while those who fight the movement will be quite as much the enemies of the city and foes to progress as they will be to common justice and good business sense, in treating with a company that has rights which cannot be trampled upon and which

will remain in spite of efforts to destroy them, whether the present franchise is extended for the brief period desired or not.

The inconsistency and deception of the virulent foes of a company that has been of immense benefit to the community, is simply astounding, and the people of Salt Lake should open their eyes to the wrong that is being attempted towards that company, and to the city itself which will reap by far the greater profit from the transaction that is now in question before the City Council. The public should not be hoodwinked, and the City Council should not be swayed, by such shameless endeavors to injure the city and the company on the part of conspirators who are enemies to both.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.

We learn from the Elders' Journal of April 15, published at Chattanooga, Tennessee, that on the night of April 1 the meetinghouse of the Saints at Gayvin, Miss., was burned to the ground by some of their persecutors. The building had recently been repaired and fitted up with seats. A nice collection of Sunday school literature and song books decorated their little library, and everything went up in smoke. They joyfully assembled on Sunday morning for their regular services, only to behold their church reduced to ashes.

"Their good, peaceable Christian neighbors, who claim to have the religion of Jesus Christ in their hearts, and whose prayers are loud and long and responsible for the crime." So says the Elders' Journal, which editorially speaks of the injuries suffered by the Latter-day Saints in the South. In consequence of the stories that are sent out by the "self-righteous Pharisees, who carry on their defamations and persecutions in the name of Christianity." The Journal says further:

"No time should be lost in fastening the crime of burning the Mormon church upon the guilty persons, and bringing them to justice. And the officers of the law, upon whom this responsibility rests, should be just as persistent in the discharge of their duty in this matter, as if the injured ones were members of some other church. The protection of the law is guaranteed to all citizens alike; and the fact that these sufferers are 'Mormons' makes no difference in the matter of justice, so far as the law itself is concerned, and the men entrusted with the power of execution are under oath to give the Latter-day Saints the benefits of protection as well as citizens of Protestant faiths. If we violate and transgress the law, we violate to suffer the penalty; and when we obey and sustain the law, we are entitled to its protection, whether we are in Utah or in Mississippi. Will the civil authorities at Gayvin violate their trust? Will they shrink from their duty? or will they prove themselves men of honor, men of right, men of justice?"

This is but one of the outrages that have been committed as a consequence of the vile calumnies sent out from Salt Lake City, which have the effect of arousing the passions of the unforgotten, who are inflamed into actions the most disgraceful and brutal, while they imagine that they are doing God's service, because the professed ministers of the Savior urge them on by repeating the falsehoods concocted here and circulated throughout the land.

While the infamous fabricators of these lurid tales are the real culprits and are responsible before God for their evil deeds, the officers of the law in the State of Mississippi are in duty bound to trace out and punish the perpetrators of the crime, to which they have been incited by better-informed but designing persons and papers. There will be a fearful reckoning for the really guilty parties in the day when all people shall give an account for the deeds done in the body. Their fate will arouse the deepest pity.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The first complete census of the Philippines, as recently published by the Census Bureau, is of considerable interest to this country. The figures gathered are in many instances founded on estimates, but they are believed to be sufficiently correct to base conclusions on, relative to what laws are needed, and what material is at hand for the building up of an independent state. The work consists of four volumes, and they are handsomely illustrated, while the reader is further aided by numerous maps and diagrams.

The first volume is devoted to the history and geography of the islands. In the second volume statistics of population are given, and the condition of the Philippines compared with those of other peoples. Returns are given from 342 islands, and according to these, the total population is 7,625,426. About 7,000,000 of these are classified as civilized. The total population is said to be a little more than four times as great as it was 100 years ago. The excess of birth rate over death rate in the Philippines has been large, in spite of epidemics and great losses as a result of epidemics of various diseases.

The third volume is devoted to vital statistics. The number of deaths was 442,058 in 1902, and 329,611 in the following year. Thus the average death rate for 1902 was 63.3 per thousand, ranging from 122 in Paragua to 133 in Batangas. In 1903 the death rate diminished to 47.2, a rate still clearly excessive, and a study of the earlier statistics of mortality suggests that the average normal death rate is about 22, which is much greater than that of any European country whose death rate is known, although it is less than that of most of the provinces in British India. The average birth rate in the Philippines, as obtained from statistics covering a period of 15 years, is 48 per thousand. The excess of births over deaths in normal years is greater than that of nearly all other countries, although slightly less than that of the United States. The difference in the death rate in the interior and upon the coast—78 and 57 per thousand, respectively—suggests that as a place of residence the coast is more healthy than the interior.

In the fourth volume facts are given concerning social and industrial conditions. The chief source of wealth is the production and exportation of agricultural commodities. In 1902 the agricultural exports were valued at \$27,360,475, forming 95 per cent of the value of all exports. The soil is so fertile that when sufficiently watered it yields large crops without intensive cultivation, and the easy-going native secures most satisfactory results, even with his unscientific methods and crude implements. Isolated farmhouses are unknown in the Philippines, the inhabitants living in communities and cultivating small tracts in the vicinity of their homes. Consequently the average size of the Philippine farm is but 8.5 acres. The tracts of land returned as farms number 815,453, with 45.9 per cent of their area under cultivation.

THE WRONG PERSON.

"The Voice of Death" is the title of a little pamphlet, published by James Dixon, M. A., of Chicago. It is intended to be a "scathing rebuke" to Dr. Osler. Mr. Dixon stoutly maintains that there is no reason why men should not live useful and enjoyable lives for at least 150 years. He claims that between the age of 20 and 40 years men are mere boys, unreliable, often dangerous, as it is between these years that most of the crimes are committed, and most cases of insanity occur. After 50 years, he says, man commences to get some sense. His judgment matures, and he becomes useful. The reason, he further claims, why there are so many prematurely old people, is that they have worn themselves out in sin and dissipation, and that they are constantly reminded of death and the grave, instead of the way to live right.

There are some good things in the little pamphlet, though some of it is hardly borne out by facts. But it is fair to Dr. Osler to state that that gentleman denied having ever made the statement attributed to him, that men should be killed at the age of 50, or any other age. What the professor really did do was this: He used a humorous expression to emphasize what he considers a great truth, that the creative period of a man's life ends at forty and his productive period at sixty, and that splendid exceptions do not upset the general rule. Osler may be mistaken in his theory as to the limit of the creative period of man, but the newspaper reporter who represented him as advocating murder has done him an irreparable injustice. The "scathing rebuke" should be aimed at the ignorant journalist.

LIFE ON MARS.

According to a report, the astronomers at Flagstaff, Ariz., now believe after noting the change in colors of certain sections coincident with changes in the Martian year, that brownish sections of the planet which were before supposed to be seas were simply stretches of winter-denuded soil, since at other epochs these same sections show a blue-green tint, indicating fresh vegetation. If this is correct, the conclusion that intelligent beings inhabit that planet appears very reasonable. From what we know of life in its various forms in the part of the universe we inhabit, plants exist for the sustenance of animal life, and the various animals are made to serve man in the conquest of nature and the progress of civilization; through which means alone, man can attain the perfection necessary to enable him to continue his existence in a still higher sphere. The entire creation, as far as we know it on earth is one chain, in which each link is dependent on the other, and all interlocked with this final end in view. We have a right to conclude that the facts are similar in other worlds, especially in those belonging to our system, which constitute our nearest neighbors in space. If, therefore, it is reasonably certain that vegetation flourishes on the planet Mars, it is equally certain that there are animal forms of life, and that there are intelligent beings to rule over and to govern such existences, for their own moral and intellectual development. The logic of analogy forces this conclusion.

It lacks just a little of being ethereal mildness.

"After divorce, what?" asks the Boston Globe. Next.

Presumably there are more ways than one to skin a wildcat.

Nan Patterson and her sister now occupy the same cell. Misery loves company.

And now a golf ball trust has been formed. It should be put in a hole and kept there.

Because he has been ordered to leave French waters it does not follow that Rojstvensky will take French leave.

Secretary Taft has kept that Venezuelan lid down so tight that not a squeak from Castro has been heard.

A lot of weapons for the President have just arrived from the Philippines. They make him much more than thrice armed.

Berkeley students propose to ask for university credit for athletic work. Isn't this running athletics into the ground?

"The American people are bigger than the beef trust itself," says the Louisville Herald. It isn't res adjudicated.

If all the power schemes before the New York legislature go through, Niagara Falls will have nothing but dry Sundays.

Jeweled hostility is fashion's latest fad. The fact is that Edward III instituted jeweled garters, which is the next thing to it.

Rider Haggard says that Socialism is making gallop. It is to be hoped that they are honestly made and have not the taint of the trusts upon them.

President Wilson of Princeton says the proper way to deal with the trusts is to moralize them. To make silk purses out of sow's ears is a much easier task.

"In the coming naval battle," asks

the Atchison Globe, "will the God of War favor the morning or the afternoon papers?" The afternoon papers, of course, if the future may be judged by the past.

"Whoever ought to own the streetcars, it certainly isn't the hoodlums. Put them down!" says an exchange. A sentiment that will be indorsed by the public everywhere.

Margarita Lemon, one of the prima donnas of the New York Metropolitan Opera company, has brought suit to have her marriage with J. Reed Little annulled. Evidently she has soured on him.

A Louisville lad took peace with suicidal intent because his best girl gave him the marble heart. It made him the most lovelick again that Louisville had ever seen.

The highest paid employees of the city of New York are the janitors of the public schools, according to an examiner in the comptroller's office. Some of them receive as high as ten thousand dollars a year. But then, it is expected that the school janitor will rake in the dust.

English and French military writers have intimated from time to time during the last few years that the general staff of the German army, which under the guidance and inspiration of Moltke, became, perhaps, the most efficient military organization ever known is falling into a state of decay.

The demise of President Charles Kelly, of the Box Elder Stake of Zion, takes from the community an active worker and a faithful and devoted Latter-day Saint. While attending the General Conference, he showed signs of physical weakness, resulting from the operation he had undergone and which, no doubt, prolonged his life for a brief season. The people of Brigham City will mourn his departure deeply, and the Church of which he was a sincere and earnest supporter will miss him greatly. We condole with the bereaved family.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Wayside Tales for April opens with a series of striking pictures illustrating "Salons" of yesterday and today. It has a story of real life in tragedy, by George Elmer McCulloch, and a number of other features of interest. Among these are a description, illustrated, of "America's Dead Sea," by Ross B. Franklin, a paper on "Hunts," by "Beligion," "In the Glare of the Lime-light," by Nana B. Springer, and "Fashion Suggestions for Early Spring,"—\$5 Rush St., Chicago.

The May issue of the Century brings the first of the promised articles on "Great Inventions Described by their Inventors." Mr. Charles F. Brush tells the interesting history of "The Arc Light." The second of Melville E. Stone's articles on "The Associated Press" relates in detail the story of the removal of the Russian censorship on foreign news. The narrative includes Mr. Stone's interesting interviews with the Czar, Ministers Lamsdorff and Plehva, and others. There is a second contribution from Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, recounting her experiences in the hospitals of the Japanese army. "How the Japanese Save Lives" has a lesson for our own war department, a lesson which Dr. McGee does not hesitate to press home. Richard Whiteing continues his papers on "The Chateaux of Touraine," writer and artist finding fascinating material in ancient Loches and Langeais. There is an account of the recently discovered inland white bear of northwestern British Columbia by W. J. Holland, director of the Carnegie Museum, and Arthur Hober, writer of "The Prize of Rome," an article of peculiar interest just at the time that the American academy in Rome has been newly chartered and handsomely endowed. Henry R. Elliot's discussion of "The World-wide Spiritual Awakening" deals with conditions of general vital importance.

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